

REMARKS**Overview**

Claims 21-22 and 24-36 are pending in this application. Claims 21, 26 and 36 have been amended. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-22 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,805,152 to Furusawa. Independent claims 21, 26 and 36 have been amended.

Furusawa is directed towards a very specific problem. In particular, Furusawa is directed towards a video presentation system and the problem of how to easily and economically provide subject-service linkage in a video image displayed on its screen. To do so, Furusawa affixes bar codes to subjects and video data is created by taking their pictures with a video camera (col. 8, lines 3-6). The resulting bar code can then be read off of a video display to serve as an identifier for the subject. In Furusawa, the whole point of using bar codes is to avoid the overhead of the programming that would be involved with systematically linking subject and services to a video image (col. 1, lines 10-57).

The present invention provides for more than merely using bar codes. The present invention provides for more than displaying a bar code on a video display and scanning the bar code. It is hoped that the Examiner will appreciate the fundamentally different approach to solving a problem that the present invention offers. The approach is one that is counter intuitive

and contrary to conventional thought. In particular, note how the present invention takes an electronic document created by one source and transmits the electronic document to another computing device. **Thus, the bar code need only exist in electronic form and not ever in physical form.** Note that in Furusawa, the bar codes are physically attached to objects which are then video recorded. In the UPC example given by the Examiner, the UPC code is printed and placed on a physical object. Thus, the prior art relied upon by the Examiner merely illustrates examples of using bar codes to identify physical objects.

Claim 21 now requires "creating an electronic document for data interchange using software, the electronic document comprising text and associated bar code data encoding the text". This limitation is simply not disclosed in Furusawa. The Examiner provides an example of the well-known use of UPC codes to illustrate the combination of text and bar codes which is neither taught nor suggested by Furusawa. Furusawa does not rely on using human-readable text and because the bar code is only used as an identifier for selection, the inclusion of both would not be logical or desirable with a display associated with a computing device. Remember that the electronic document includes both text and associated bar code data encoding the text. Furusawa does not disclose this limitation either. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection to claim 21 should be withdrawn. As claims 22 and 24-25 depend from claim 21, these rejections should also be withdrawn.

Claim 26 has been amended to require "viewing a document comprising a bar code and text, the bar code encoding the text, on a video display". This limitation is not taught by Furusawa nor the Examiner's example of the UPC code. Therefore, this rejection must be withdrawn. As claims 27-35 depend from claim 26, these rejections should also be withdrawn.

Claim 36 has been amended to require "the bar code encoding the text". Claim 36 also requires the limitation of "to thereby provide for data interchange without requiring re-entry of data and to facilitate comparison of the descriptive text and the information in the data field." It is respectfully submitted that the addition of this functional language makes clear some of the advantages of the present invention.

Therefore, for all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN D. GOODHUE, Reg. No. 47,603
McKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 22885

Attorneys of Record

- bja -